

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 11077 171025Z

21

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 L-01 H-02 INR-05 PM-03 PRS-01

SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DHA-02 IO-03

EUR-08 /051 W

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R 161232Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6313

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 11077

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ET

SUBJECT: SAFETY OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: ADDIS 10739 (NOTAL)

1. DURING MY BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH PMAC CHAIRMAN TEFERI AT INDEPENDENCE DAY RECEPTION SEPT 13, TEFERI RAISED SUBJECT OF FOREIGN CONCERNS ABOUT SAFETY OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. HE TOLD ME THAT LIJ MIKAEL IMRU HAD INFORMED HIM OF MY CONCERN, EXPRESSED SEPT 5 (REFTEL) AND THAT OTHER DIPLOMATS HAD EXPRESSED SIMILAR WORRIES. (NOTE: HE MEANT DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, BRITISH AMB, EEC DEMARCHE, AND PERHAPS

OTHERS.)

2. HE SAID EPMG HAD ISSUED A STATEMENT THAT DAY DENYING THESE UNFOUNDED RUMORS (ADDIS 10981.) I SAID MY CONCERN AND THAT OF OTHER DIPLOMATS WAS BASED ON MANY REPORTS SOURCED TO DIRG MEMBERS THAT EXECUTIONS WERE BEING SERIOUSLY DISCUSSED IN DIRG, WHICH GAVE  
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 11077 171025Z

THESE REPORTS MORE STATUS THAN MERE RUMORS. TEFERI SAID MILDLY THAT

PERHAPS REAL SOURCES OF SUCH REPORTS REACHING THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS WERE

NOT DIRG MEMBERS BUT ENEMIES OF THE DIRG. I INDICATED SCEPTICISM,  
AND WE CHANGED THE SUBJECT.

3. COMMENT: AS IN OTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH EPMG OFFICIALS, ABSENCE  
OF DENIAL THAT DIRG SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED EXECUTIONS GIVES GROUNDS  
FOR CONTINUING CONCERN. KEY STATEMENT IN PUBLISHED DENIAL IS "THERE  
WOULD BE NO EXECUTIONS WITHOUT TRIAL", WHICH STILL LEAVES ROOM FOR  
EXECUTING POLITICAL PRISONERS AND THEN ANNOUNCING THAT  
THEY HAD BEEN PROPERLY COURT MARTIALLED. I PERSONNALLY DOUBT THAT EPMG

WILL EXECUTE WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF IMPERIAL FAMILY BUT WOULD NOT BE  
SURPRISED IF SOME POLITICAL FIGURES ARE DONE AWAY WITH SOME DAY.

4. MILD TONE OF TEFERI'S REMARKS WAS NOTEWORTHY. EVEN MORE  
SIGNIFICANT IS FACT THAT IN AMB'S MEETING WITH FONMIN KIFLE TODAY ON  
OTHER SUBJECT (KAGNEW), FONMIN MADE NO MENTION OF THIS SUBJECT. I  
HAVE NO PLANS TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT WITH EPMG IN NEAR FUTURE. I  
HOPE THAT ADDRESSEES WILL REFRAIN FROM COMMENT TO EMIGREE EITHIOPIAN  
FRIENDS.

HUMMEL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SAFETY, PRISONERS WELFARE, POLITICAL PRISONERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Subject:** SAFETY OF POLITICAL PRISONERS  
**TAGS:** PINT, ET  
**To:** STATE  
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